



# Pastoral Letter - February 2021

Gillespie Memorial Church, at the heart of Dunfermline, is a parish Church of Scotland serving the community wherever we are called.

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ*

*As we enter the second month of 2021, our lockdowns continue and (as I write this) the temperatures falls along with the snow and I wonder how you are all doing? We are moving quickly toward a full year since we last gathered for Sunday morning worship together, and as I speak with folk across the church the two united refrains I hear are, 'I'm a bit fed up with all of this' and 'I'm looking forward to when we can gather together again'.*

*These themes, of being fed up and missing fellowship and time together are of course linked. We are relational beings, created for relationship with God our Father and with one another. During these times of distance, lockdown and virtual gathering we naturally have missed the companionship of shared pursuits, whether that be watching 'the game' together, playing golf, football or whatever is your sport, or sharing a pint, G&T, coffee or tea and a cake. The Lord has created us with different gifts, traits and abilities and as we mix we form one body. In other words it is normal we need one another in fellowship in order to feel complete. My prayer is that we will recognise that in this time of separation and when it comes to gathering once again we will come bringing our gifts. Romans 12.4-5 says it plainly 'Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other'.*

*So, as we have been away from church, have you had the opportunity to assess your part in the body of Christ, His church? Because I think it necessary to ask, 'when I come back (of course making the assumption you desire to come back into fellowship at GMC) what part will I play in the life of God's church? My belief is that no matter ones age, ability, understanding or stage in life—as a follower of*

*Jesus, He places a call on your life through His sacrifice for you.*

*We are making plans to come back into being church with a building, considering ways of being church to those who already know us and those who have yet to discover the vitality of a life in the Lord. But also acknowledging that the church exists beyond the building, for it is just a place to share in worship and fellowship so we can go and BE church in the world. So, we will endeavour to strengthen your faith and life in Christ, bring others into the love of Jesus, and journey together as people of all ages in the call to be disciples who make disciples. Please keep in touch with our 'Growing Young', pray for us and consider participating in our church life, however you are able. For we are all one body!*

Your servant in Christ,

*Pastor Mike*

### **Interim Report on Finances for 2020**

**Income:** Total: £130,221 (which included a legacy of £27,844 which has been set aside for restricted use in Youth Ministry and Youth Church)

<b>Income Breakdown</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Free Will Offering Envelopes	10,351	18,850
Standing Order Offering	41,865	30,513
Open Place & Other Offering	5,927	11,925
Hall Usage Income	5,288	18,045

Other income comes from grants and gift aid reclaim

**Expenditure:** Total: £108,392 (a surplus on the year of £21,829 but when reflecting the legacy gift the loss for 2020 was -£6,015)

Noted expenditure to buildings and equipment repairs & upgrades were £30,303

*These figures are for your information ahead of the production of our annual accounts for agreement at the Kirk Session on 30th March 2021*

**Lent starts on 17<sup>th</sup> February.** I will however be still be running the Prayer Course, and so will not be running a Lent Course, but a number of other congregations are. There are opportunities for different times and subjects for people to choose from...

From **Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**, 7.30 MaryAnn Rennie leads **The Hallelujah Banquet** by Eugene Petersen. Please register ahead - [MARennie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:MARennie@churchofscotland.org.uk)

From **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**, 7.30 Carolann Erskine leads **The Chosen**. This is **film** based. Please register ahead - [CErskine@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CErskine@churchofscotland.org.uk)

From **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**, 7.00 Iain Greenshields leads a study on Peter using the Daily Bread films by Can Campbell. Please register ahead – [IGreenshields@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:IGreenshields@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Mondays at 10.30, Tuesdays at 2pm, Wednesdays at 7pm** Muriel Willoughby, Margaret Mateos and Jean Kirkwood lead a study using **Christians Against Poverty** materials. Please register ahead – [Mwilloughby@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Mwilloughby@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Mike will offer a weekly reflection available via Facebook, YouTube and our website based on the GMC Lent Reading Plan**

**To join in fellowship please ‘Zoom’ with us for ‘Coffee on the Couch | Prayer Time | Post Worship Service Coffee’**

For link Email: [communications@gillespiechurch.org](mailto:communications@gillespiechurch.org) / 01383 621 253

## **Sunday Worship Services**

**You can catch Sunday Worship on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 10.30am or find us via the link on the Gillespie Facebook page or via our website.**

Resources for your use are also provided via our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel to keep you connected to one another and to the Lord.

<https://gillespiechurch.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GillespieChurch/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdVxrWpmmathmsvGdXGJSHA>

# 'STUFF



## ADVENT READING PLAN 2021

**Join us this Lent reading through the Gospels of Mark and John**

John 1.1-18	Ash Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February
John 1.19-51	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Mark 1	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
Mark 2	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February
Mark 3	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February
John 2	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
John 3	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
John 4	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> February
John 5	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February
Mark 4	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Mark 5	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Mark 6	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Mark 7	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
John 6.1-40	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March
John 6.41-71	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 8	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 9	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March
John 7	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March
John 8	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March
John 9	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March
John 10	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March
John 11	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 10	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 11	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March
John 12	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 12	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 13	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 14.1-42	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
John 13	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
John 14	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
John 15	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
John 16	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
John 17	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 14.43-72	Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
John 18	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
Mark 15	Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
John 19	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
Mark 16	Maundy Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
John 20	Good Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
John 21	Holy Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April

